

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 23, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 19 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested because the amendments place the application into better condition for allowance and/or appeal, do not raise new issues that require further search and/or consideration, and do not contain new matter as will be discussed below. Claims 1-19 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because the feature "storage means" lacks proper antecedent basis. Applicants submit that claim 10 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for all of the recited features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,887,256 to Lu et al. (Lu). Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of any of the pending claims.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-11 depend, is directed to a method of communicating information. A storage module stores information about possible

associations between an identifier of a mobile user equipment and user plane addresses is stored, wherein the user plane addresses are associated with active user plane connections. A service provisioning entity receives a request for the service from a client connected to a communication system, the request including the identifier of the mobile user equipment. The method verifies if a user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier and if the user plane address is found from the storage module, verifying whether an associated user plane connection is active. If such a user plane address is found from the storage module, communicating data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over an active user plane connection associated with the address found from the storage module. If no user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier, establishing a new user plane connection and communicating data associated with a provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment over the established user plane connection, thereby providing the provisioning of the service in the communication system.

Claim 12, from which claims 13-18 depend, is directed to an arrangement in a communication system. A service provisioning entity is configured to receive a service request from the client, the request identifying a mobile user equipment by means of an identifier. A storage module is configured to maintain information regarding possible associations between the identifier of the mobile user equipment and user plane addresses that can be used for user plane data transmissions in the communication system, wherein

the storage module is arranged to verify if a user plane address for communication of data can be found from the storage module based on the identifier, wherein the user plane addresses are associated with active user plane connections. If such a user plane address is found from the storage module, it is verified whether an associated user plane connection is active, and data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over an active user plane connection associated with the address found from the storage module. If no user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier, a new user plane connection is established and data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over the established user plane connection. Provision of a service is provided in response to a request from the client, the provisioning of the service requiring communication of data to and/or from the mobile user equipment.

Claim 19 is directed to an apparatus in a communication system. A service provisioning means receives a service request from the client, the request identifying a mobile user equipment by means of an identifier. A storage means maintains information regarding possible associations between the identifier of the mobile user equipment and user plane addresses that can be used for user plane data transmissions in the communication system, wherein the user plane addresses are associated with active user plane connections. The storage means is arranged to verify if a user plane address for communication of data can be found from the storage means based on the identifier. If such a user plane address is found from the storage means, verifying whether an

associated user plane connection is active and data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over an active user plane connection associated with said address found from the storage means. If no user plane address can be found from the storage means based on the identifier, a new user plane connection is established and data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over the established user plane connection. Provision of a service is provided in response to a request from the client, the provisioning of the service requiring communication of data to and/or from the mobile user equipment.

According to embodiments of the present invention, data associated with provisioning of the requested service to the mobile user equipment is communicated over an active user plane connection associated with a user plane address found from the storage module if such a user plane address is available. Alternately, if no user plane address is found from the storage module, a new user plane connection is established. Thus, activation of an active communication channel is not required if an already active user plane connection can be identified. Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in Lu.

Lu is directed to hybrid cellular communications which has a private mobile services switching centre, for facilitating cellular communication for and among a plurality of native cellular handsets. The hybrid cellular communications network also facilitates cellular communication between a non-native cellular handset and a public

cellular network, which has a public mobile services switching center. Lu further discloses a registry coupled to the private mobile services switching center. The registry contains data identifying each of the plurality of native cellular handsets as handsets that subscribe to the hybrid cellular communications network, wherein the non-native handset is not identified in the registry as a handset that subscribes to the hybrid cellular communications network. As discussed previously, if the circuit determines that the communication data originates from one of the native cellular handsets, the circuit passes the communication data to the private handset. On the other hand, if the circuit determines that the communication data originates from a non-native cellular handset, the circuit passes the communication data to a base station controller. This facilitates completion of a call path for a non-native handset.

Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of verifying if a user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier and if the user plane address is found from the storage module, verifying whether an associated user plane connection is active, as recited in claim 1 and similarly recited in claims 12 and 19. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is inherent in the previously submitted claims because by verifying the presence of a user plane address, it is also determined whether there is an active user plane connection. However, as discussed above, the independent claims are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim this inherent feature. Hence, no new matter is added. As discussed in previous correspondence, Lu merely discloses that a new connection is made either

within the private network, or alternatively by the public network. Lu is silent with regards to checking if a user plane connection is present.

Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 7, 8 and 18 depend from claims 1 and 12, these claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 12, as well as for the additional features recited in these dependent claims.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Lu fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 1, 7, 8, 12, and 18. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, 8, 12 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 2-5, 9-11, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lu, in view of US Publication No. 2002/0022483 (referred to as 09/767,374 in the Office Action) to Thompson et al. (Thompson). The Office Action took the position that Lu disclosed all of the features of the above claims, except the feature of the requested service that comprises a location information service and said data communicated on the user plane associates with provisioning of the information regarding the geographical location of the mobile user equipment. The Office Action asserted that Thompson disclosed this feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the above claims. Specifically, Lu is deficient at least for the reasons discussed above, and Thompson fails to cure these deficiencies.

Lu is discussed above. Thompson is directed to a distributed network communications system for providing access to multiple wireless service providers (WSPs) on a shared network infrastructure. The system includes a plurality of access points (APs) coupled to a network which may be distributed in airports, mass-transit stations, businesses, etc. The network may couple to a wide area network, such as the Internet. Each AP may include a plurality of virtual APs (VAPs), each corresponding to a WSP. A portable computing device (PCD) of a user stores identification information indicating a WSP of a plurality of possible WSPs, and which may include an access level of the user. Each AP "listens for" or detects identification information associated with numerous WSPs. When the AP receives the identification information from the PCD, it determines the VAP/WSP for the PCD using the identification information. Network access is then provided to the PCD through the determined WSP at the determined access level.

However, similarly to Lu, Thompson fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of verifying if a user plane address can be found from the storage module based on the identifier and if the user plane address is found from the storage module, verifying whether an associated user plane connection is active, as discussed above regarding claims 1 and 12. Thus, Thompson fails to cure the deficiencies of Lu.

Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 2-5, 9-11,

and 13-16. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-5, 9-11, and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Lu, in view of US Patent No. 6,822,954 to McConnell et al. (McConnell). The Office Action took the position that Lu disclosed all of the features of these claims except for the feature of the identifier which includes a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number of the mobile user equipment. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of the pending claims. Specifically, Lu is deficient at least for the reasons discussed above, and McConnell fails to cure these deficiencies.

Lu is discussed above. McConnell is directed to a gateway that has a stack with a bearer adaptation layer and an HTTP client. The gateway may be connected by an HTTP link to an origin server and by a bearer interface to a mobile network. It may also be connected by an HTTP link to a WTA server. A context manager is a user on the stack and supports interfaces to allow access to external entities in a versatile manner. An event manager captures events including billing events and writes to an event log and to a billing log. A management entity provides overall control and sets configurations for the event manager.

However, similarly to Lu, McConnell fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of verifying if a user plane address can be found from the storage module based

on the identifier and if the user plane address is found from the storage module, verifying whether an associated user plane connection is active, as discussed above regarding claims 1 and 12. Thus, McConnell fails to cure the deficiencies of Lu.


Based at least on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in any of claims 6 and 17. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-19 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-19 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time